

AT the end of a crucial week with matches against the top two clubs in the Rothmans Isthmian League Division One, Wycombe Wanderers have finished with just one point.

A maximum three points against the second placed side Dulwich Hamlet would have done Wycombe's confidence the world of good, as well as moving them up the table again. As it was, they just about held on to one solitary point which keeps them in fifth place in the table.

After Tuesday night's defeat at Hendon, a good result on Saturday was vital and for 45 minutes, it seemed Wanderers were cruising comfortably. Then, in the second half, they let the match slip away and allowed Dulwich a simple equaliser.

The main problem on Saturday was in midfield. It seems when skipper Larry Pritchard is off form, the rest of the side suffers. Pritchard was sadly out of touch and many of his normally accurate passes went astray. The same could be said of Rob Williams, who wasted too much promising possession. As a result, service to the front runners was erratic.

Defensively, Wanderers were again well served by the ever improving Phil Wood, who gave another excellent performance alongside Dave Bullock.

Forcing two early corners, the visitors looked dangerous from the start and immediately impressed with the enthusiasm and work rate.

Wycombe took a long time to get into their stride and it wasn't until the 17th minute that veteran goalkeeper Dave Roffey had his first save to make from Steve Perrin. Tony Horseman went close to opening Wycombe's account after 22 minutes when his overhead kick almost caught Roffey by surprise.

Pudney replied with a fierce drive just over the top but then a minute later, on the half hour, Perrin hammered in a powerful shot after a superb through ball from Holfield only to see his effort hit Roffey's legs.

Keith Searle, who was hustled all afternoon by Brookes, broke loose in the 32nd minute with a brilliant run down the flank but his early cross flew across the goalface with Perrin and Horseman nowhere to be seen.

Dulwich, using the wings well, kept plugging away at Wycombe and looked increasingly menacing on the flanks where Derek Gamblin had an unhappy after-

noon, lacking in pace on several occasions.

Then, within seconds of the half time whistle, Wanderers went ahead. Ironically it was Gamblin who made the goal, sprinting down the wing and crossing the ball firmly into the box. Horseman drew away a defender and allowed the ball to go straight through to Keith Searle, who cracked it into the net, first time. No doubt the goal impressed Charles Hughes, the England team manager, who has selected Searle for his squad.

Dulwich replaced the injured Ken Grose with Alan Rowbottom at half time and although there was no immediate change

from the visitors, Rowbottom was to play a leading part in their later improvement.

Pudney almost had John Maskell in difficulties in the first minute of the new half when the 'keeper only just gathered his cross but at the other end Holfield was inches away from a second goal.

Paul Birdseye replaced Derek Gamblin who was injured after a tackle in the 62nd minute. Gamblin went into hospital and it is feared the injury might be a fractured kneecap.

It was at this stage that Rowbottom began to make his presence felt. Working busily in midfield he kept Wycombe un-

der pressure all the time, and had a noticeable effect on his colleagues who began to dictate events in the middle where they were nearly always first to the ball.

Rowbottom fired wide from Pudney's free kick and then when he struck the upright. The ball spun across the goaline and was hastily cleared.

That incident was all Dulwich needed. They powered forward and deservedly equalised in the 78th minute through Gerry O'Rourke, playing his first game for the club, having signed on permit from Wimbledon.

The visitors were awarded a

dubious corner on the top wing which Rowbottom flighted cleverly into the area. The ball sailed straight to the head of O'Rourke who steered a powerful header into the far corner of the net, with Maskell unsighted by Roy Drake.

With the bit firmly between their teeth, Dulwich came forward again but in the 82nd minute they were set back when Brookes was booked for dissent. When referee Underwood awarded Wycombe a throw-in, Brookes threw the ball down in disgust. It was Dulwich's ninth booking of the season and it means that they are no longer entitled to any cash bonus from the sponsors, except the £40 offered for a three goal victory.

Mick Holfield had one chance to snatch the winner for Wycombe in the closing stages when he latched onto Birdseye's deep cross and curled a shot past the far post.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; D. Gamblin (sub P. Birdseye 60 mins); P. Wood; D. Bullock; R. Grant; R. Williams; L. Pritchard; M. Holfield; A. Horseman; K. Searle; S. Perrin.

DULWICH: D. Roffey; K. Baker; K. Grose (sub A. Rowbottom 45 mins); M. Bullman; R. Brookes; S. Rogers; T. Blaydon; R. Drake; F. Pudney; B. Mills; G. O'Rourke.

REFEREE: K. J. Underwood (Romford).

HALF TIME: 1-0. Goalscorers: Wycombe — Searle (45), Dulwich — O'Rourke (78).

Official paying attendance: 1,746. **Approx. total:** 2,100.



Wycombe striker Steve Perrin wastes this chance by heading over the bar at Loakes Park on Saturday.

	DIVISION 1											Pen Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Pts	C	D			
Hendon	20	14	5	1	35	6	47	0	0				
Dulwich	19	12	5	2	25	13	41	0	0				
R. S. S. D.	21	12	4	5	43	43	40	0	0				
Hayes	17	10	3	4	31	15	33	0	0				
Wycombe	15	9	3	3	30	19	30	0	0				
Enfield	18	9	2	7	24	16	29	2	0				
Barking	19	8	3	8	27	30	27	0	0				
Tooting	20	8	3	9	24	27	27	0	0				
L. Stone	17	7	5	2	16	18	28	0	0				
Wittnsw	18	7	5	6	24	25	26	6	8				
Lthhead	14	8	1	5	27	16	25	1	0				
Walton	20	7	2	4	23	16	26	0	0				
Oxford	18	6	7	5	22	25	25	0	0				
Sutton	16	6	4	6	20	23	22	0	0				
K. Strlin	16	5	0	5	22	18	21	1	0				
Fincham	15	4	8	5	25	30	19	0	0				
Bromley	20	4	2	13	24	28	15	2	0				
Woking	11	4	1	6	16	20	13	0	0				
Ilford	16	3	4	9	22	26	13	0	0				
St Albans	17	2	3	12	16	38	9	2	0				
Clapton	7	2	0	15	8	61	6	0	0				
Casuals	16	1	1	14	10	32	4	0	0				